Michael Cavanagh,
Director
Balmoral Management Consulting Ltd.

In his 35-year career, Michael has worked as a Programmer, Systems Analyst, Project Manager and Consultant in a number of business sectors. As a consultant, his earlier specialisations were in the fields of project management and the risk and ethical implications of technology, particularly with regard to safety-critical and safety-related systems design in software-intensive systems. In recent years, he has concentrated more upon the transfer of knowledge and wisdom in an organisational context, particularly with regard to good management practice. This work on experiential learning has led to the focus of his current consulting activity being the use of systems thinking techniques to perform 'forensic' analysis of major project failure and the ways in which lessons can be derived and corrective process improvement implemented.

Michael has an MSc (awarded with Distinction) in Information Systems and Experiential Learning at Salford University. To further his academic career he is at present undertaking research leading to a Ph.D at the University of Manchester on the way in which organisations may acquire, share and maintain experientially-gained 'knowledge', with special regard to areas that are termed 'tacit' – craft, skill and wisdom. He is on the board of a number of companies, the most recent venture being Phronesis – the Centre for Appreciative Systems Research at the University of Manchester - which seeks to bring academics and practitioners together in a practical learning environment.